

# CLAIMS

## **We Claim:**

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1. A brake plate for use in a vehicle brake assembly comprising:  
a non-metallic body.
2. The plate of Claim 1, wherein the plate is a backing plate and including a friction pad supported on one surface of the body.
3. The plate of Claim 2, wherein the friction pad is adhesively secured to the body.
4. The plate of Claim 2, wherein the friction pad is riveted to the body.
5. The plate of Claim 2, wherein the body includes a portion that is molded integrally with a portion of the friction pad.
6. The plate of Claim 1, wherein the plate is adapted to be used in a wet disc brake assembly and the body comprises a phenolic material.
7. The plate of Claim 6, wherein the body comprises a fiber reinforced phenolic material.
8. The plate of Claim 6, wherein the body comprises a phenolic matrix composite material.

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10. A method of making a plate for use in a vehicle brake assembly comprising:

molding a non-metallic material into the shape of a brake plate.

11. The method of Claim 10, including mixing a friction modifying compound with a phenolic powder prior to performing the molding step.

12. The method of Claim 11, including using a fiber reinforced phenolic powder.

13. The method of Claim 11, including using a friction modifying compound that also reinforces the phenolic powder.

14. The method of Claim 10 including securing a friction pad to the molded plate.

15. The method of Claim 14 including adhesively securing the friction pad to the plate.

16. The method of Claim 14 including riveting the friction pad to the molded plate.

17. The method of Claim 14 including integrally molding at least a portion of the plate with at least a portion of the friction pad.

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